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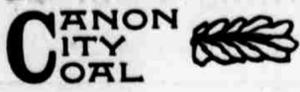
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A GULF COAST WRITER.

Mrs. M. E. M. Davis Has Distinguished Herself in Poetry and Fiction.

Among the writers of the past quarter of a century who have reflected honor on the gulf coast Mrs. Davis stands in the front rank. Her first fame came to her when she was a mere child. Her war poems, full of fire and passionate patriotism, were wonderfully mature in feeling and in literary style, and few knew that they were the work of a little schoolgirl.



MRS. MOLLIE E. MOORE DAVIS.

Her youth was spent in Texas, and her first contributions were printed in the papers of that state. For several years after taking up her pen she confined herself to poetry as her medium of expression, and her first volume of verses passed through five editions. She has been writing in prose for about five years. Quite early in life she married Major T. E. Davis, a Virginian and a graduate of the University of Virginia. He is now on the staff of the New Orleans Picayune and is a gentleman of wide culture.

Mrs. Davis' first essays in prose consisted of a series of sketches of the old French quarter in New Orleans under the general title of "Keren-haperch and L." These attracted attention and admiration. Later came "In War Times at La Rose Blanche," "Pere Dagobert," "The Throwing of the Wangs" (poem), "The Elephant's Track," "Mammy Gigger," "The Song of the Opal," "The Center Figger," "At La Glorienne," "The Soul of Rose Dede," "Mr. Gish's Ball," "A Heart Leaf From Stony Creek Bottom" and other strong and artistic stories printed in the leading monthlies and weeklies of this country and many of them complimented by translation into other languages. "The Soul of Rose Dede" made such an impression by its originality and spirituality that the author received over 100 letters of congratulation on it.

Mrs. Davis lives in a quaint, antique home in the old French quarter in New Orleans—a typical residence, with its galleries, inner court and sweet wilderness of palms and flowers. Here she holds her salon—a real literary center—and here she has entertained many of the most noted authors and artists of the day. She has one child, an exquisitely pretty little maid named Pearl.

Mrs. R. COLEQUITT.

Two Pretty Head Rests. The pretty head rest shown in the first illustration has the center made of chamois skin, cut heart shaped, showing a dainty design painted in delicate tints.



A puffing of silk, matching some tint in the floral design, is adjusted about the edges. At the edge of the chamois, where the puffing is joined to it, Japanese gold thread is arranged in a scroll design. At each side of the top a loop of gold cord is fastened for the purpose of securing the rest to the chair.

Figured india drapery silk is the material from which the head rest in the second illustration is made. It is simply a small pillow, oblong in shape, smoothly incased in a covering of silk. Loops of



cord are tacked at the upper corners to adjust the cushion to the chair, and five silk tassels ornament the lower edge. If preferred, plain silk may be used for the case, and a design may be worked upon it in silks.

GERTRUDE WILLET.

Theater Hats.

One reason why so few care to take off their hats in public is that it is very difficult to dress the hair well and wear a hat on it, and the hair is combed straight back and braided, and that is a style becoming to but very few. Such ladies should wear small bonnets. It is a sign of ill breeding to do anything which interferes with another's comfort, above all when it can be avoided. Almost anything can be twisted up into a pretty theater bonnet or toque—so there really is no excuse.

Satin in Colors.

Satin in colors is rarely worn except in combination or as lining, but black and white always will have their adherents, and it is really quite a fancy for the little ones, even as small as six years old.

WHAT BABIES WEAR.

OLIVE HARPER DISCUSSES FASHIONS FOR LITTLE FOLK.

Frocks For Chubby Young Chaps—Simple Styles For Little Girls—A Handsome Wardrobe—Russian Blouse For Misses of Ten Years.

[Special Correspondence.] NEW YORK, Feb. 16.—I like babies, and so it is a pleasant task to write what they are to wear—those who have fairy godmothers, I mean, and who can have the pretty things that only money can buy and leisure can complete.

The most useful as well as most expensive little gowns are knit of silk, just like a stocking, with more or less ornamentation on the edges and on sleeves and to define outlines. Some of these made in colored washable silk make the richest of tiny frocks to wear over guimpe. The guimpe can be of muslin or wash silk, as suits the season. Many mothers pass their spare time knitting them. There is a picture of one with this, showing the back. The front reaches straight from the yoke to the bottom, with an edging on each side, but no ribbon. The chubby little chap is a 2-year-old in a frock of tricot flannel, the trimming being feather stitching in silk of a contrasting color. This gar-



FOR THE BABIES.

ment is suitable alike for girls and boys. The wool tricot is very strong and flexible and will not tear and never seems to wear out, which makes it a very useful fabric for these tots who roll and crawl quite as much as they walk, and it is also light in weight. It can be secured in all light solid colors and also in stripes. Tiny hand knit socks and stockings are much more fashionable for small children than they were, and the baby that wears such is considered an aristocrat—generally a "bloated one" at that.

A very pretty frock for a little girl of about 6—we say frocks for children, you know—is of soft wool in the color that becomes her best, if the mother has her choice and is not obliged to make over her own old ones. There is a yoke and forearms of some novelty brocade, or if preferred they can be of the same material, braided with gold soutache. The skirt is plain and the waist shirred on. There is a saash of soft sarah to match. The whole plan is simple, pretty and serviceable.

Hats for the children are the biggest when they are smallest, paradoxically speaking, and this year they are made so that they bend and dent in every direction, but look all the more artistic. Soft and fluffy plumes, big satin bows and a lovely bunch of spring flowers are seen on the newest, according to taste, but some of them have all three at once.

For little girls from 7 to 10 years the gowns are made plain and neat, with very little ornamentation. From 10 to 15 the skirts are almost always plain, but the waists are—some of them—quite elaborate and interchangeable with different skirts, so that with one waist can be worn three or four different skirts.

One such corsage was made with a pointed Eton jacket front of navy blue brocade, with vest collar and under-sleeves of pale blue sarah, with the edges of the ruffe embroidered in open pattern, something quite new, on silk. The collar was high, and in front was a bow and jabot of the embroidered silk. With this waist there were four skirts, one of dark blue cashmere with a piping of pale blue on the upturned hem; a pale blue cashmere with feather stitching in white and dark blue mingled; a prune colored crepon made quite plain except for a very narrow quilling of pale blue at the bottom under the hem and scarcely visible from the outside. The fourth was a dark moss green, and this was cut bell shape and piped down every seam with pale blue. This made really quite a handsome wardrobe with small expense and trouble, as it is the waist in these days that gives the most trouble.



CORSAGES FOR GROWING GIRLS.

A Russian blouse of black lace and velvet, with a richly beaded girdle, makes another most useful corsage for a growing girl, as its loose and graceful draperies distract the eye from the awkwardness of the unformed figure. In making this a lining to the waist portion of black lace silk is a good plan, but it should be postiche, as often the blouse would be worn over some entire costume and the color should show through. It opens upon the left shoulder and from there down under the velvet band. It could be made of white lace, but black is the handsomest.

ROOMS FOR THE MILLION.

How World's Fair Authorities Will Take Care of Visitors.

[Special Correspondence.]

CHICAGO, Feb. 16.—A Frenchman of distinction in his own country and who represents in a prominent capacity the interests of the sister republic during the continuance of the World's fair, and an American of equal distinction, whose name is a part and parcel of the great project, sat vis-a-vis at a table in the cafe of one of the swiftest of Michigan avenue's hotels the other evening. A dinner that did full justice to the American's fame as an epicure had been disposed of, and the two diners out had gotten down to the pleasures of cafe noir, when the door opened and a military looking man with grizzled features and that peculiar gray mustache and goatee which distinctively remind one of frontier service entered the apartment. The American host and the newcomer exchanged a military salute. Then the former asked:

"And how are things going in your department, major? You are mighty lucky in having quarters down town and not being compelled to travel to the park these blizzard days."

"We are in the swim, general," was the response of the grizzled veteran as he inclined his head in recognition of an introduction to the Frenchman and reached over his hand for the menu. "Over 1,000 letters in the first mail this morning."

"One thousand letters," ejaculated the Frenchman, only he said it with that peculiar pronunciation that only those to the manor born can reproduce in print. "That is what I would call one big correspondence."

"That is a mere nothing, monsieur," replied the veteran. "We will be getting them by the wagon load in a month or so," and the Frenchman shook his head, shrugged his shoulders, elevated his eyebrows and generally indicated that, as our Irish friends would say, "He couldn't make it out, begorra, at all, at all."

A goodly number of people were just as much surprised as was the Frenchman when the World's fair directorate decided to add a hotel and rooming department to the bureau of public comfort. They were inclined to look upon it as something of an aping of that system of paternal government that prevails in European countries, but which has always been frowned down on this side of the Atlantic as hardly in consonance with the free air of a republic.

But the directorate argued that it was its duty to co-operate, to the best of its ability, with the citizens and householders of Chicago and vicinity in securing suitable and desirable lodging accommodations at fair and reasonable rates for expected visitors, on the ground that tens of thousands of people would be deterred from visiting the fair unless satisfactory assurances could be given them on this point.

What better assurance, argued the directorate, could possibly be given than the fact that the exposition authorities themselves would undertake to house them? As to the question of eating, they could look after that without assistance. There will be plenty of restaurants and maybe, judging from the looks of things, plenty to spare. Anyway a man can get along on half rations if he has only a comfortable place to sleep. Rest for the body and mind is infinitely more beneficial than gorging the stomach, when only a modicum of sleep accompanies it.

And so the World's fair people went into the rooming business. They divided the city into districts and sections, prepared an official register and invited parties who proposed to have furnished rooms to let next summer to send in a full description, naming the prices, authorizing the department to inspect such accommodations, likewise authorizing it to let the same from day to day, week to week or month to month, and to collect the rent in advance. The response was instantaneous.

Over 10,000 householders, many of them well-to-do people living on fashionable thoroughfares, and whose pride would not permit of their putting a "To Rent" sign in their window, or even advertising vacant accommodations in the newspapers, have already listed with the exposition authorities. These 10,000 can furnish facilities for 40,000 or 50,000 people nightly. Before the 1st of May it is expected the list will have doubled, and it is not outside the province of probability that along in midsummer 100,000 people will nightly be thanking the forethought of the directorate for the comfortable rest they are nightly enjoying.

The modus operandi is very simple. A citizen of Ohio, for instance, writes the bureau of public comfort that himself and wife expect to take in the World's fair on the 11th, 12th and 13th of August; that they have never been in the city before; that they are in doubt about being able to secure accommodations within their means, and that they would like to know all about it, intimating, moreover, that a certain figure is as high as they feel they can afford to pay per day.

The department replies that it has on its list just such quarters as the correspondent desires and at the price he names, and that, if he will forward the amount called for, covering the number of days to be spent in Chicago, they will forward him a rental certificate, which will secure to himself and his wife the rooms engaged for the term and date selected. The citizen sends the money, gets a certificate in return and stows it away in his pocketbook. His worry and anxiety are things of the past. He comes to Chicago, finds his rooms ready for him, occupies them for the limit and goes away satisfied.

There is no negotiating or bickering with the landlord or landlady. The latter gets his or her remuneration from the bureau of public comfort and has the additional satisfaction of knowing that by this system full and ample protection is afforded against the deadbeat fraternity. This may be in theory paternal government, but it is a kind of paternal government that, judging by the present demand on the department from prospective visitors, is certain to prove immensely popular next summer.

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Columbus at the Court of Ferdinand and Isabella.

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